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DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948

Dalton Press Ltd., Rothwell.

Urban District of Desborough

Members of the Public Health Committee :
Mr. R. G. Marlow (*Chairman*),
Messrs. H. Coe, R. G. Coe, W. J. Holland, Mrs. A. B. Lock,
Messrs. A. H. Noon, J. Townley.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :
Medical Officer of Health :
JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :
ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.
June, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Desborough Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lock and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1948.

The National Health Service Act, which came into operation on 5th July removed from the jurisdiction of the Council the two personal health services for which they were responsible, namely, the treatment of Infectious Diseases and the immunisation of children under 15 years against Diphtheria. The Council is still responsible for preventing the incidence and spread of infectious diseases.

The housing progress during the year was satisfactory, however it is hoped that the Council will soon include in their policy the problem of slum clearance and individual unfit houses also those that fall short of the present standard of good housing.

It is worthy of note that 187 outworkers were notified in August. Pre-war the number of outworkers was almost nil. The majority of the outworkers are mothers with young families and it is a matter of some concern if economic circumstances force the mothers to take additional work to that of running their own homes.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Surveyor for their co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
J. T. MURPHY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Area (acres)	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population— (Registrar-General's estimate) ...	4316	4226	4429	4494	4621
Number of Live Births	100	66	99	97	66
Legitimate	88	59	96	94	65
Illegitimate	12	7	3	3	1
Birth-rate per 1,000 population ...	23.16	15.61	22.35	21.58	14.28
Number of Still Births	—	1	4	1	2
Legitimate	—	1	4	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	—	14.92	38.83	10.20	29.41
Rate per 1,000 population	—	0.23	0.90	0.22	0.43
Number of Deaths	55	52	47	50	47
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	12.74	12.30	10.61	11.12	10.17
Total Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births	40.00	15.15	30.30	10.30	45.45
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	3	1	—	3	2
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	8	9	9	10	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1948

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph-theria	Influenza	Diarr-hœa & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	3.3	34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu-lations, 25,000 — 50,000	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.04	2.1	32
London	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	2.4	31
Desborough Urban District	14.28	0.43	10.17	—	—	—	—	0.21	—	—	—	45.45

	Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Puerperal infections	Others	Total
The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales per 1,000 total births ...	0.11	0.05	0.13	0.73	1.12
The Maternal Mortality rates for Desborough per 1,000 total births ...	nil	nil	nil	nil.	nil

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,621
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	1,470
Rateable Value	£21,885
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£83

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—Boot and shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Legitimate	65	35	30
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	66	36	30

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.28

STILL BIRTHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
	2	2	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 29.41

DEATHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
	47	25	22

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.17

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—	
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	45.45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	46.15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11

Deaths—No "comparability" factor was issued for 1948.

Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for 1948 together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1948

Desborough	14.28
England and Wales	17.9

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1948

Desborough	45.45
England and Wales	34.0

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	*Sex*	*Cause of death*
4 days	F.	Intra-cerebral haemorrhage.
2 months	M.	Broncho pneumonia.
9 months	F.	Convulsions. Dentition. Pertusses and Premature Birth.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

		Males	*Females*	*Total*
	All Causes	25	22	47
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	1	1
5	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	—	—
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	—	2	2
8	Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9	Influenza	—	—	—
10	Measles	—	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
12	Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
13	Cancer	8	3	11
14	Diabetes	1	—	1
15	Heart Disease	2	6	8
16	Intracranial vascular lesions	2	3	5
17	Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3
18	Bronchitis	1	—	1
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	3	—	3
20	Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	—	—
22	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
23	Appendicitis	—	—	—

Registered causes of death—*continued.*

		Males	*Females*	*Total*
24	Other digestive diseases	—	—	—
25	Nephritis	1	2	3
26	Puerperal causes	—	—	—
27	Premature Birth	—	—	—
28	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury	—	1	1
29	Suicide	—	—	—
30	Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
31	Other violent causes	1	2	3
32	All other causes	3	1	4

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined :—	1948
Swabs	1
Blood	—
Faeces	—
Urine	—
Hairs from scalp (suspected Ringworm) ...	—

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious cases and accident cases are removed by the ambulance under the administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The Desborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association provides the services of two whole time nurses. Details of the work carried out during 1948 are as follows :—

Cases Nursed			*Total*
General	Midwifery	Maternity	*Visits*
164	23	32	2,611

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The County Council is the authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

Orthopaedic cases attend the Manfield Orthopaedic Clinic at Kettering.

Persons suffering from Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kettering and District General Hospital every Thursday evening under the County Council scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation.:—From 1941 free immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from one to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1948 is as follows:

Under 5 years	50
5 to 14 years	—
Total	50

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation since the beginning of the scheme is as follows :—

Age at 31-12-48	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in year	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Number immunised	2	37	38	20	38

Estimated mid-year population 1948, 364

Age at 31-12-48	5 to 9	10 to 14
i.e. Born in year	1939-1943	1934-1938
Number immunised	206	260

Estimated mid-year population 1948, 500

The above figures do not include those children immunised by private arrangement.

The number of children who received a reinforcing injection of Diphtheria prophylactic during the year was 147.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—A good supply of water both in quantity and quality was maintained throughout the year. At no time was it found necessary to enforce restriction or curtail the supply.

Four bacteriological examinations of the water were taken at various times of the year. Each report stated that the samples were very satisfactory. A chemical examination revealed the water, apart from being hard, to be of good quality and safe for drinking purposes. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

Practically the whole of the population is served by the public piped supply. About one-eighth of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town are served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of the houses. During the year about twenty-five houses have had a supply taken inside instead of being served by the outside arrangements.

The water service to the remainder is direct to all other dwellings.

Five farms being a long distance from the service mains are without a service supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No new works of sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been undertaken during the year.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and are dealing efficiently with the daily flow. The effluent produced has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—During the year 258 inspections were made. 61 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were found necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—The Northamptonshire Agricultural Executive Committee in agreement with the Council treated the House Refuse Tip and the Sewage Disposal Works. These two sites are being kept free from vermin. The sewers were baited during October and no baits were taken.

SECTION D. Housing.

Seven houses were built during 1948 by private enterprise. Twenty four were completed by the Council. Twenty-four were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Factories Act, 1937. Sixteen inspections of Factories were made. One notice was served. This referred to a defective Water Closet. The defect was found to be remedied on a subsequent visit. It was noted that the brighter decoration of the workrooms was being well maintained. Canteens appear to be well run and kept in a clean condition.

The number of outworkers in August 1948 was 187.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and other foods.—There are no Government Slaughterhouses being operated within the Urban Area.

174 licences were issued by the Ministry of Food in connection with the Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme. From the inspections made it appeared that the animals were kept in a clean condition. No case of disease was noted.

Food Condemned.—952lbs. of dried peas were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were taken over by the Salvage department of the Ministry of Food.

Fish Frying.—There are three fish frying establishments in the Urban Area. These have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Bakehouses.—The town is served by one bakehouse. A model bakery was completed by the local Co-operative Society in 1940. This is an up-to-date and hygienic bakehouse.

Milk Supply.—61 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. 50 were found to be satisfactory, 5 moderate and 6 bad. 44 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for phosphatase test, 36 were found to be satisfactory. 44 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for the methylene blue test and all were found to be satisfactory. The pasteurising plant has been inspected at frequent intervals and generally found in good condition. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining new parts and thermometers.

Raw Milk Examination, 1948

Category	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Good	4	3	4	6	5	7
Moderate ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bad	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	7	3	4	6	5	9

Category	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Good ...	—	2	2	6	6	5	50
Moderate	—	3	—	—	—	—	5
Bad ...	—	1	3	—	—	—	6
Totals ...	—	6	5	6	6	5	**61**

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were removed to Hospital. There was one death in a child of 9 months from illness complicated by Whooping Cough—this case was not notified.

Tuberculosis

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1948.

Public Health Act, 1925 Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936 Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and two deaths occurred from non-respiratory tuberculosis. A table is shown giving the age and sex incidence of tuberculosis for 1948.

Tuberculosis After-Care. The Committee continues to take a great interest in the welfare of the patients. The preventive side of tuberculosis is stressed as well as making grants of assistance to the patients.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1948

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	5	5	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	—	7	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	—	7	6	4	—	—	—	2	1	6	6	5	37

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1948

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	4	7	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	4	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	3	2	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals	1	3	3	6	11	11	—	—	—	1	—	1	37	—	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1948

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	1	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1948

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	1
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	1
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	2